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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
Legal Subcommittee
Thirty-second session
New York, 22 March-8 April 1993

DRAFT REPORT OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

INTRODUCTION

Opening of the session

1. The Legal Subcommittee held its thirty-second session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 22 March to 8 April 1993.

2. At its opening, 562nd meeting, the Subcommittee agreed that Mr. Václav Mikulka (Czech Republic) retain the chairmanship of the Subcommittee. Mr. Mikulka, in his introductory statement, thanked the Subcommittee for the honour it had done to him and his country in re-electing him to the chairmanship, and briefly described the work to be undertaken by the Subcommittee at its current session. A summary of the Chairman's statement is contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/SR.562.

3. The Subcommittee paid tribute to the memory of Judge Manfred Lachs, member and former President of the International Court of Justice, who was the first Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee.

Adoption of the agenda

4. At the opening meeting, the Subcommittee adopted the following agenda (A/AC.105/C.2/L.191):

1. Opening of the session.

2. Statement by the Chairman.

3. Question of early review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

4. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.

5. Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

Attendance

5. Representatives of the following States members of the Subcommittee attended the session: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

6. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and international organizations attended the session: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), European Space Agency (ESA), International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and International Law Association (ILA).

7. The Chairman informed the Subcommittee at its 562nd, 563rd, 566th and 567th meetings that requests to participate in meetings of the Subcommittee had been received from Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia and Turkey. The Subcommittee agreed that, since the granting of observer status was the prerogative of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Subcommittee could take no formal decision on the matter, but that the representatives of Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia and Turkey might attend the formal meetings of the Subcommittee and could direct requests for the floor to the Chairman, should they wish to make statements.

8. A list of representatives of States members of the Subcommittee, States not members of the Subcommittee, specialized agencies and other organizations attending the session, and of the secretariat of the Subcommittee, is contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/INF/25.

Organization of work

9. In accordance with decisions taken at its opening meeting, the Subcommittee organized its work as follows:

(a) Pursuant to the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Legal Subcommittee, on a permanent basis, should rotate each year the order of consideration of substantive agenda items, 1/ it considered the three substantive items on its agenda (see para. 14 above) in the following order: item 3, item 4 and item 5;

(b) It re-established its Working Group on agenda item 3, open to all members of the Subcommittee, and agreed that Mr. Helmut Freudenschuss, the representative of Austria, should serve as its Chairman;

(c) It re-established its Working Group on agenda item 4, open to all members of the Subcommittee, and agreed that Mr. Estanislao Zawels, the representative of Argentina, should serve as its Chairman;

(d) It re-established its Working Group on agenda item 5, open to all members of the Subcommittee, and agreed that Mr. Raimundo González, the representative of Chile, should serve as its Chairman;

(e) It began its work with a plenary meeting to hear delegations wishing to address the Subcommittee, and then adjourned and reconvened, when appropriate, as a working group, or began its work as a working group.

10. The following delegations participated in the general exchange of views: ... The views expressed by these delegations are summarized in documents A/AC.105/C.2/SR.562-5--.

11. The Working Group on agenda item 3 held five meetings. The Working Group on agenda item 4 held six meetings. The Working Group on agenda item 5 held ... meetings.

12. The Chairmen of the working groups reported to the Subcommittee at its ... meeting, on __ April (see annexes I, II and III to the present report). The Subcommittee took note with appreciation of the reports and of the work done in the working groups.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/45/20, para. 143).